THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT.— Saturday, May 26, 1923. —ONE PENNY.

Fascism in England?

Workers' Dreadnought

NO TAXES UNDER COMMUNISM!

VOL. X. No. 10. SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1923. WEEKLY.

DIVES AND LAZARUS.

Did you ever hear of Dives,
Who lived in Palestine?
A marvellous rich man was he,
Well clothed in superfine,
His table groaned with wealth of food,
His wines by gallons ran,
No wonder he grew sleek and stout,
Just like an alderman!
Another man named Lazarus,
Homeless sick and poor,
In hopes to beg the rich man's crumbs,
Lay at the rich man's door.
He heard the sounds of mirth with'n,
But not a friend had he,
Except the dogs who licked his sores
In silent sympathy.

You will think this very very strange,
But then, of course, you know,
It was in a far-off country,
A long, long time ago.
Now Dives daily feasted
And was gorgeously arrayed,
Not at all because he liked it,
But because twas good for trade.
He fed 500 servants
That the poor might not lack bread,
And had his vessels made of gold
That they might get more lead,
And e'en to show his sympathy
With the deserving poor.
He did no useful work himself,
That they might do the more.

You will think this very very strange,
But then, of course, you know,
It was in a far-off country
A long, long time ago.

But now at length poor Lazarus grew
Too weak with death to strive.
He evidently was not of the fittest to survive.
So on one frosty night, about a quarter past eleven,
He looked up at the silent stars, then died and went to Heaven.
Now Dives too was waxing old, and presently fell ill.
Whereon a lawyer was called in to make a mighty will.
And as his friends were gathered round
To hear his last farewell,
He bade them follow in his steps,
Then died and went to Hell.

I don't think God would venture now
To treat a rich man so,
But this was in a far-off land,
A long, long time ago.

J. W. F.

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GERMINAL.

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The German Ignominy.

To Trade Unionists and Proletarians.

Translated from the "United Front," the Organ of the German All-Workers' Union.

We have in Germany an enormous indifferent and reactionary mass, as monstrous as, during the war, one imagined the Russian "steam roller" to be. This mass is the organised Trade Union and party-ridden proletariat. Individually these workers are most good-natured and mentally lazy; collectively they are trusting, easily led, and politically at the A. B. C.

By means of this giant steam-roller of Germany, a highly efficient professional leadership, which is fully aware of what it is about, has crushed down every freedom-loving movement.

Let us examine more closely the policy of the Trade Unions and working-class political parties. Who was it that held back the masses from action before the signing of the Versailles Peace Treaty? The Trade Unions and political parties.

Was it not precisely the United Socialist Party which cried out most loudly for the signing of the Peace Treaty? Scheidemann's phrase: "Let the hand wither first," was nothing but a clever pretence. He wished to absolve his valuable self—superficially, be it understood—from responsibility; and to leave the actual signing to some politically indiscreet person. The Trade Unions and parties not only did nothing to make the signing appear shameful, they were even in favour of it. . . .

French Capitalism has now put its hirelings in the Ruhr. Why do we grow angry now, instead of admitting that this is the consequence of our own conduct? Had we tried to prevent the Treaty of Versailles, as a mass of united workers, all foreign occupations and oppressions would long have been at an end. The revolution would have triumphed. Are not the protest demonstrations and strikes of those who agreed to the Treaty pure hypocrisy?

The soldiers have marched in and taken possession of what should belong to the proletariat. Everything has gone smoothly. There have not been wanting attempts of the workers against the ruling class. The only thing lacking was the call to the general strike by the Trade Unions; but the "comrades" in the Government and in the high official positions do not seem to wish it. The Communist Party—it is well known that its members are in the Trade Unions—demanded from the Trade Unions and Social Democrats the declaration of the general strike. The Communist Party hoped thus to force the resignation of the Cuno Cabinet, to dissolve Parliament, and—to be able to play at a "Workers' Government."

A Workers' Government, indeed! We have had enough of the "worker" Noske! What can a Workers' Government do? What can any Government do any way?

Each Government can only do what is agreeable to the existing ruling class. A Workers' Government cannot do otherwise.

What is needed is the seizure of power by the proletariat. To provoke a general strike, for any other aim is a crime. . . . When Kapp and his hordes appeared before the Brandenburg Gate, Ebert Scheidemann, and all connected with them, fled to Stuttgart.

Very courageous that! But there is better to follow.

It is a well-established fact that the Social Democrats and Trade Union leaders always describe strikes as nonsense. A general strike is, to them, general nonsense!

Yet as they fled to Stuttgart these heroes called for a general strike against the Capitalists who were supporting Kapp! The mass obeyed; the "Socialist" Government triumphed. Thanks to the general strike, those who had left their comfortable seats owing to lack of courage were able to climb into them again.

A portion of the working class, and certainly not the worst portion, was not pleased with this general nonsense; it wished to battle for Socialism through the general strike. That portion was in the Ruhr.

What did the Trade Unions and workers' parties do then? They called off the general strike. The strike was proclaimed to be wild: it was outlawed and excommunicated.

Severing and Walther went down to the Ruhr district. What happened then? Death and imprisonment for those who wanted to realise the ideals of the proletariat.

But the "comrades" once more had their comfortable places in the seats of the mighty. The leaders remained undisturbed to carry on a policy of reconstruction and reform, and the great mass stood by piously with adoring gaze.

The present wage policy of the Trade Unions is a policy of resuscitation of expiring Capitalism. If the Trade Unions had not intervened to modify the fall in wages, the masses would long ago have come into conflict with the exploiters and would have consigned them to a hundred devils. The Trade Union officials at the negotiating tables have maintained the barrier between slaves and slave owners. Through them all goes smoothly forward without conflict. There is an increasing amount of paper money, for which one receives less and less, and—that is the main point—one is quiet and waits. The Trade Unions will soon accomplish it, one is assured; there will soon be more again. O unconquerable folly!

OUR RATES.

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ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

FRANK PENMAN IN LONDON.

Young Hicks had persuaded Frank Penman and Miss Mayence to go with him to the 1917 Club, and there they met Willie Martin, from Edinburgh.

"I suppose you've read Ward's 'Ancient Law,'?" he asked. "It's exceedingly suggestive. Some of us have been working on those lines lately, and we've had a very fair measure of success."

"What lines?" asked Hicks.

"Haven't you read the book?"

"I have, but I don't know what you mean, all the same."

"The main thing in the book is its account of the mutual-aid unions of producers in Greek and Roman times. We have been trying to organise something in the same kind of way, but instead of having a group of workers in one industry, our group is composed of workers in many industries."

"That's interesting," said Penman. "Tell us about it."

"Precisely what I intended," Martin answered with a grimace. "I'm going to try to stir up you people down here to follow our example, so don't expect me to stop till I've done!"

"Right O!" said Hicks.

Martin proceeded:

"Most of our group are on the dole. We number five engineers, a bricklayer, a plasterer, two shoemakers, three bakers, a compositor, half a dozen clothing operatives, three milliners, two carpenters, a plumber, and twenty unskilled labourers, most of whom have had more or less experience on the land at some time, and several of whom are handy chaps, who know something about half a dozen trades. Our comp. makes a hobby of poultry, so he's by no means the least useful. Those are the out-of-works. Of the members in work, two are teachers, two clerks, one is a laundress, two are shop assistants, one a carman, and one a doctor. Beside that, two-thirds of the men have wives who don't go out to work for a boss.

"We all put our money in a common fund, one-fifth of which is used for pocket-money and extras, and shared out equally amongst us. The rents are paid out of the common fund. The rest of the money is used for buying the other things we need. We've rented three houses: one of them is a fine place, able to accommodate six families, beside providing a club-room and dining-room for the group. The others take three families apiece. The rest of us are living where we did before we formed the group, because we haven't been able to get other accommodation so far.

"We aim at doing as much as possible for each other.

"The shoemaker has taught some of the others to help him, and we shan't need to buy any more shoes for the group now, because we can provide all we need. We only use the best leather, and of course we get it wholesale. We've begun making bags, too, when they're required. You should see mine! I never thought I should have such a good one!

"Of course we bake our own bread: that's simple. We've built a baker's oven in the garden of our biggest house, and we bake all our cakes and pies there. We've got plenty of fruit in that garden, too, and we make our own jams and pickles.

"Naturally, we make our own clothes; and some of the group are experimenting with hand-loom weaving. Our engineers say they're not going to be content with that, and that as soon as they've finished the power laundry they are going to apply themselves to installing spinning and weaving machinery. But, of course, that means a big outlay.

"We've got central steam heating in all our houses, though two of the wives object to it. They turn the radiators off in their rooms and light up the coal fires. Well, let them get on with it, if they like work! It doesn't trouble anyone, though it's extravagant.

"We've rented a bit of land outside the town to grow our vegetables, and we shall start saving up for a cow as soon as we can. It's a nuisance having to pay rent for that land. The old miser who owns it never did a hand's turn for the money he gets from us; and, of course, the same applies to house rent. In fact, we are always cursing the money system!

"Our doctor is one of our greatest enthusiasts. He doesn't shirk doing a share of the manual work. He has a good paying practice, and a bit of a private income; and though he declares it is immoral to make people pay for medical treatment and to draw dividends, he is as pleased as Punch when he hands over his pelf to the group. We shouldn't have got on nearly so fast without him, because the rents and rates are such an awful drain on us. He is studying dentistry so we needn't go outside to have our teeth attended to. He's sold out a good bit of his capital and he'll dispose of it all for things for the group, in the end. He's talking about buying a house now.

"As soon as the steam laundry is ready, our laundress member is going to leave work to take charge of it. At the end of this term one of our teachers is going to leave school to start an infants' school for our youngest children. We don't want to send any more of our children to the ordinary schools. Two of the girls in our group have been training to help her.

"We have educational classes, a choir, and a dramatic group.

"The only thing that holds us back is the folk outside, who won't fall into line, and who continue clinging to the private-property system."

"This affair of yours doesn't affect the dole, I suppose?" Hicks asked.

"Not yet; but we are a good deal worried on that very point. The authorities are actually discussing the question now. First they suggested that all our unemployed members were being employed by the doctor—seeing that he is the only monied man amongst us. Now they are trying to make out that either our unemployed members are in the employment of the group or in the employment of those in the group who are not on the dole, or that the unemployed are engaged in trading and manufacture."

"It's pretty thick," said Hicks, "that if a chap is an idler he can get the dole, but as soon as he makes himself a bit useful and tries to lay out his dole to the best advantage he loses it."

"Do you think if your group had consisted of unemployed members only, the authorities would have raised the question of stopping the dole?" asked Miss Mayence.

"Can't say," answered Martin, "and I can't say at the moment what the outcome will be."

"What will you do if the dole is cut off?"

"We are arriving at that stage when we shall be able to produce far more than we can use of certain things. What we shall have to do if the dole stops is make a surplus of some things, and sell them to get money to pay for rent, rates, and the other things we buy now. Because we are surrounded by the private property and money system, we shall have to sell things to get money.

"Then some of us will have to waste time keeping books, and we shall have to spend part of our substance in advertising and in middleman's profits. Of course, if other groups spring up with which we can deal directly, we shall not be obliged to deal in the ordinary competitive market. If we can avoid that, and get a regular market for our goods, we shall save a great deal of time, energy, and material. We shall then be able to supply what is required, and not have stuff left on our hands to spoil. I tell you it is a hard job trying to practise Communism in a Capitalist world. All the same, our experiment has more than justified itself, and we are enjoying ourselves immensely. Of course we are very lucky in the membership of our group: but I think any group would benefit by following our example if its members would throw themselves into the work wholeheartedly.

FREE SPEECH IN GLASGOW.

Glasgow Green and Jail Square are famous old places for open-air meetings. Some comrades can remember the meetings there for forty years; but the meetings there have been stopped.

The attack began in 1921, when the sale of literature was banned. In 1922 the meetings were prohibited.

This year a fight is on to regain the old right to what is known as the Common Green. Free-speech demonstrations have been held the last five weeks by John Maclean and his colleagues of the Scottish Workers' Republican Party, protesting against the Parks Committee to withdraw the rule hindering free speech and sale of literature.

The tragedy of the drama is the signature of a popular Labour Councillor, E. Rosslyn Mitchell, at the bottom of the Rules and Regulations on the notice-board. Rosslyn Mitchell was the Labour candidate who opposed Bonar Law at the last General Election, and posed as a friend of the working class. He is a lawyer, and a favourite of the Labour Party. He and others signed away the right of meeting and selling literature. What would they do if they got into Parliament?

The May Day Committee got permission to hold their demonstration on May 1st. After it was over they surrendered to the Parks Committee. What a farce! One can hardly believe that all the great working-class organisations do not join in the protest. The people here know the history of the Green; surely they must understand that it is only by mass action they will get their rights.

The reactionaries are determined in every conceivable way to keep back our propaganda, to silence our voice. They believe this is their last ditch. The old favourite pitch, known to people all over the world by the name "The Workers' College," must be won; if we are to lose this fight it will be a disgrace to those who failed to help.

The Red Banner, with the words: "Free Speech," is hoisted at the Nelson Monument every Sunday at 2.30. The comrades are allowed to meet there by permission, their permit having to be shown to the police. At the meeting of the Town Council on May 10th it was moved by a Moderate, seconded by a Labourite, that free speech be permitted in the part of the Glasgow Green known as Jail Square. During the discussion another Moderate said that the proposal would act as a safety-valve by letting "the revolutionary gas" off. (Laughter.) The Labour men did not press that the Green should be included, so they are agreeable to let the Green be lost for a small part known as Gaol Square. That will not satisfy the Free Speech Committee; they will carry on the agitation until the Green is won back on the old conditions.

"TABLE DUSTING" AT THE PALACE.

The Members of the Labour Party who communicate to the Press their sense of honour at dining with the King, will doubtless feel embarrassed by the resolution of Stockton-on-Thornaby Labour Party, to be discussed at the National Conference on June 26th.

"That the Royal Family is no longer necessary as part of the British Constitution, and that the Labour Party be therefore asked to state definitely its view on the matter."

Nearly 74,000 people are in receipt of relief in West Ham, as against 15,000 in 1914.

Limehouse Guardians had no objection to combining with Poplar when the Sick Asylum beds were bug-ridden. Now that improvements have been introduced, they cry out to dissolve partnership.

THE SEVEN THAT WERE HANGED.

(By Leonid Andreyev, a Famous Russian Author.)

(Continued from last week.)

Just then, close to Werner's ear, sounded the breathless and passionate voice of the Tzigane:

"Sir, sir, look at the forest. My God! What is all that? And yonder! The lanterns! My God, is that the scaffold?"

Werner looked at him. The convulsed features of the unfortunate man were frightful to see.

"We must say our farewells," said Tanya.

"Wait! They still have to read the sentence. Where is Yanson?"

Yanson lay stretched in the snow, surrounded by people. A strong smell of ammonia filled the air around him.

"Well, doctor, will you soon be through?" asked someone, impatiently.

"It's nothing. A fainting fit. Rub his ears with snow. He is better already. You can read."

The light of a dark lantern fellupon the paper and the ungloved white hands. Both paper and hands trembled. The voice also.

"Gentleemn, perhaps it is better not to read. You all know the sentence."

"Do not read!" answered Werner for all; and the light immediately went out

The condemned refused also the services of the priest. Said the Tzigane:

"No nonsense, father; you will forgive me, they will hang me."

The broad dark silhouette of the priest took a few steps backward and disappeared. The day was breaking. The snow became whiter, the faces of the condemned darker, and the forest barer and sadder.

"Gentlemen, you will go in pairs, choosing your companion. But I beg you to make haste."

Werner pointed to Yanson, who now was standing again, sustained by two soldiers.

"I will go with him. You, Sergey, take Vasily. You go first."

"All right."

"I am going with you, Musya," said Tanya. "Come, let us kiss each other!"

Quickly they kissed all round. The Tzigane kissed forcibly; they felt his teeth. Yanson kissed gently and softly, with mouth half open. He did not seem to understand what he was doing. When Sergey and Kashirin had taken a few steps, the latter stopped suddenly, and in a loud voice, which seemed strange and unfamiliar, shouted:

"Good-bye, comrades."

"Good-bye, comrade," they answered him.

The two started off again. All was quiet. The lanterns behind the trees became motionless. They expected to hear a cry, a voice, some sound or other, but there, as here, all was calm.

"Oh! My God!" exclaimed someone hoarsely.

They turned around: it was the Tzigane, crying desperately:

"They are going to hang us."

He struggled, clutching the air with his hands, and cried again:

"God! Am I to be hanged alone? My God!"

His convulsive hands gripped the hand of Werner, and he continued:

"Sir, my dear sir, my good sir. You will come with me, won't you?"

Werner, his face drawn with sorrow, answered:

"I cannot; I am with Yanson."

"Oh! My God! then I shall be alone. Why? Why?"

Musya took a step toward him, and said softly:

"I will go with you."

The Tzigane drew back, and fixed his big swollen eyes upon her:

"Will you?"

"Yes."

"But you are so little. You are not afraid of me? No, I don't want you to. I will go alone."

"But I am not afraid of you."

The Tzigane grinned.

"Don't you know that I am a brigand? And you are willing to go with me? Think a moment. I shall not be angry if you refuse."

Musya was silent. And in the faint light of the dawn her face seemed to take on a luminous and mystic pallor. Suddenly she advanced rapidly toward the Tzigane, and, taking his head in her hands, kissed him vigorously. He took her by the shoulders, put her away a little, and then kissed her loudly on her cheeks and eyes.

The soldier nearest them stopped, opened his hands, and let his gun fall. But he did not stoop to pick it up. He stood still for a moment, then turned suddenly, and began to walk into the forest.

"Where are you going?" shouted his comrade, in a frightened voice. "Stay!"

But the other painfully endeavoured to advance. Suddenly he clutched the air with his hands, and fell, face downward.

"Milksop, pick up your gun, or I will pick it up for you," cried the Tzigane, firmly. You don't know your duty. Have you never seen a man die?"

Again the lantern swung. The turn of Werner and Yanson had come.

"Good-bye, sir!" said the Tzigane, in a loud voice. "We shall meet again in the other world. When you see me there, don't turn awa yfrom me."

"Good-bye!

"I must not be hanged," said Yanson again, in a faint voice.

But Werner grasped his hand, and Yanson took a few steps. Then he was seen to sink into the snow. They bent over him, lifted him up, and carried him, while he weakly struggled in the soldiers' arms.

And again the yellow lanterns became motionless.

But Werner grasped his hand, and Yanson took a few steps. Then he was seen to sink into the snow. They bent over him, lifted him up, and carried him, while he weakly struggled in the soldiers' arms.

And again the yellow lanterns became motionless.

"And I, Musya? Am I then to go alone?" said Tanya, sadly. "We have lived together, and now . . ."

The Tzigane hotly interrupted, holding Musya as if he feared that they might tear her from him.

"Miss;" he cried, "you are able to go alone. You have a pure soul. You can go alone where you like. But I cannot. I am a bandit. I cannot go alone. 'Where are you going,' they will say to me, 'you who have killed, you who have stolen?' For I have stolen horses, too, Miss. And with her I shall be as if I were with an innocent child. Do you understand?"

"Yes, I understand. Go on, then! Let me kiss you once more, Musya."

"Kiss each other! Kiss each other!" said the Tzigane. "You are women. You must say good-bye to each other."

Then came the turn of Musya and the Tzigane. The woman walked carefully, her feet slipping, lifting her skirts by force of habit. Holding her with a strong hand, and feeling the ground with his foot, the man accompanied her to death. The lights became motionless. Around Tanya all was tranquil again, and solitary. The soldiers, gray in the dawn's pale light, were silent.

"I am left alone," said Tanya. And she sighed. "Sergey is dead, Werner and Vasily are dead. And Musya is dying, I am alone. Soldiers, my little soldiers, you see, I am alone, alone. . . ."

The sun appeared above the sea. . . .

(Continued at foot of next column)

They placed the bodies in boxes, and started off with them. With elongated necks, bulging eyes, and tongues protruding from their mouths, the dead retraced the road by which, living, they had come.

And the snow was still soft, and the air of the forest was still pure and balmy.

On the white road lay the black rubber that Sergey had lost.

The End.

THE BRITISH FASCISTI MOVEMENT.

Dear Editor,—

The following document on the British Fascisti Movement is being circulated in Government offices. The ex-Service temporary Civil Servants, a motley body of clerks, partly snobs and partly fools, are behind it. A Tory is the secretary.

The ex-Service Civil Service organisation is probably the most reactionary union in the country, not excluding Havelock Wilson's Seamen's and Firemen's Union. When about 300 temporary clerks were sacked two months ago, some members of the Union (who do not believe in the strike weapon) gathered outside the office gate at Kew, with posters bearing the inscription: "The Kew Klerks Klan," and wearing pillow-cases, with two holes for the eyes, over their heads, they looked fine dunces in their headdress. They are now organising the British Fascisti Movement in secret.

"BRITISH FASCISTI MOVEMENT."

The objects of the British Fascisti Movement are twofold:

(1) To uphold the Constitution.

(2) To unite for the mutual protection and benefit of all ex-Service men, their widows and dependents.

Membership of the British Fascisti Movement is open to:

(1) All ex-Service men—i.e., men who have served at any time in H.B.M.'s Forces.

(2) All men and women in sympathy with the objects of the movement.

All members in category (1) will be active members, and entitled to the full benefits of the movement.

All members in category (2) will be honorary members only, and will not at any time have administrative powers in the organisation of the movement.

A candidate for membership must fill up the form attached hereto, and shall hand the form, together with the entrance fee of 2/6, to the person who introduces him or her into the movement.

The payment of 2/6 does not entitle any person to membership, but is given as a sign of good faith, and is returned in the event of the application for membership not being approved by the local movement.

Subscriptions to the movement shall be an entrance fee of 2/6, and an annual subscription thereafter of 2/6, payable January 1st of each year.

"BRITISH FASCISTI MOVEMENT."

Enrolment Form.

I ..... of .....

do hereby apply for *active or *honorary membership in the above movement.

Usual signature .....

Signature of proposer .....

Signature of seconder .....

Entrance fee paid.....Initial.....

Folio ..... Date .....

Date of acceptance into movement .....

Acceptance of membership, sanctioned by .....

* Strike out whichever is inapplicable.

It should be observed that neither name nor address is attached to the circular.

Yours, etc.,

CIVIL SERVANT.

A comrade writes: "My employer's name is Doubleday, and we worked from 6 p.m. to 6.30 a.m. on Wednesday, and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Whit-Monday."

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

Workers' Dreadnought

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Our View.

Exit Bonar Law.

A TORY PRIME MINISTER has gone out of office, and the leader of the Labour Party hastens to say that he regarded the Conservative leader with "real affection." He expresses regret that the Tory's term of office should be so early cut short, and a hope that he may still continue to take an interest in Parliamentary affairs.

A chasm yawns between Mr. Macdonald's sociability with politicians of all shades of opinion and the attitude of the early Socialists who went into politics to champion the oppressed and to free them by destroying the party of privilege.

Who are these Tories with whom some who call themselves Socialists have taken to fraternising?

They are people who are determined to maintain the Capitalist system as it is, with all its injustices and cruelties, modifying the existing conditions only in the direction of benefiting the wealthy and privileged. They are not more ignorant than we Communists of the evils of the present system. They know, just as we do, that class distinctions are wholly artificial, that ability and virtue are not the attributes of any class, but that scope for their training and exercise is reserved to the well-to-do, whilst the path of apparent virtue is made easy for them and difficult to the poor. The Conservatives are as fully aware as we of the injustice of Capitalism and the wage system. They are nevertheless determined to maintain the present system, firstly, because they benefit personally from it; secondly, because they lack the imagination to conceive of Communism as a living possibility and the broad, generous love of humanity, which would cause them to desire it. The Tories lack even that compunction of the relenting conscience, which is apt to cause upholders of Capitalism to desire some humanitarian modifications of its harsher features.

Mr. Bonar Law may be an amiable family man and a pleasant occupant of the House of Commons smoke-room. As head of the Government he may have been courteous towards his opponents; but that does not alter the fundamental fact that he is one of those men who fight against progress, and who are actively engaged in combating the efforts of those who are working to free the masses from economic slavery.

The record of Mr. Bonar Law's Government is wholly reactionary: no glint of redeeming nobility lightens its sombre aspect. It is a record which displays only the selfishness of the owning class in power.

* * *

Class Struggle or Class Drift?

THE COMPLACENCY towards Capitalist politics, so conspicuous in Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, has a depressing counter-balance in the fatalism and cynicism of some who appear as professors of the class struggle.

This cynicism is so profound as to deny the possibility of all opinion, all conviction not rooted in the individual's immediate economic circumstances. It explains—nay, even excuses and vindicates—all treachery towards comrades and causes arising from a change in the economic circumstances of the traitor. This fatalism declares that the destruction of Capitalism is inevitable, and will be brought about through the excessive accumulation of capital in a few hands, through over-production and under-consumption, and the shrinking of available markets, perhaps by a catastrophic war. No conscious effort, it declares, is required to bring about the change from Capitalism to Communism, and no effort can hasten it. Those who love knowledge may therefore drink of the prophets' fountain for their own enlightenment, but action is not required of them. In the meantime, apparently, they will be well advised to arrange their affairs as comfortably as they can under Capitalism till the fates sound a trumpet for the fall of the Capitalist Jerico.

* * *

The Kernel of Socialism.

LITTLE WONDER a movement thus sponsored is in the slough of despond, and finds itself routed by such paltry villains as Mussolini. The Socialist movement needs release both from the indolent prophets of the magic transformation and from the pro-Capitalist adapters who endeavour to modify the Socialist theory out of existence and find it in keeping with their professions of Socialism to uphold a king who describes the butcheries of Mussolini as wise statesmanship.

The kernel of Socialist theory is the abolition of the private-property system and the establishment of production for use, not profit. Once those fundamentals are understood and accepted, such rubbishy proposals as nationalisation with compensation for the capitalist are altogether ruled out.

The idea of retaining the wage system under Socialism is recognised as absurd, when the conception of production for use is fully grasped and is related to the need for eliminating useless toil.

Are we to set armies of people to work under Socialism to mint and print money, to maintain banks, to keep accounts of money transactions, to sit like spiders in their webs behind shop counters, waiting till we come in to spend our wages, whilst others are elaborately compiling our wages scales with the aid of investigation, deputation and conference, petition, remonstrance, even the strike, as envisaged by Mr. and Mrs. Webb in their constitution for what they are pleased to term a Socialist Commonwealth. Are we, moreover, as an inevitable corrollary of the wage system, to set up bodies to dole out payments to those who are incapacitated from working?

Wage and money systems are out of keeping with production for use: they entail useless toil.

The pessimist who believes that mankind will only work under the spur of want, and the individualist who fears that some other compulsion to toil than that of economic need may be introduced, both come forward with their conflicting arguments as defenders of the wage system.

To the pessimist we answer: Your fears are unnecessary; in a community where all are producers and all entitled to take from the common stores, the compulsion of community opinion against the work-shy will be invincible. Should such a plan prove necessary, in the early stages before the hatred of work born of the present conditions has disappeared, the community might decide that an adult person should show either a certificate of employment from his workshop or a certificate from his doctor when applying for supplies from the common storehouse. Even such an expedient as that is out of harmony with the conception of production for use and with the spirit of Communism. The community should be zealous to supply the need of its members in overflowing measure. "Plenty for all, no stint," will be the motto of the Communist community. The voluntary principle will be found the most fruitful in production. Production will be honoured and the ambitious will rival each other in their productive efforts.

The individualist need have no fear of production for use: it offers the largest possible measure of independence to the individual. The individualist is only able to ignore the crude compulsion imposed upon the vast propertyless majority because the iniquities of the existing system are habitual.

The fear that if all were led to share in the necessary productive work of the community a dead level of attainment might result disappears with a little practical consideration of realities. The painters and sculptors of some of the greatest artistic periods were members of their trade guilds. Botticelli took his part during his apprenticeship in the grinding and mixing of colours. Lorenzo Ghiberti was a goldsmith and bronze caster. The young architect who in return for relief from the struggle for subsistence should give a few hours a week to actual building work would be infinitely freer to concentrate an unburdened mind on the creation of architectural designs than the average young architect to-day; so with the painter and poet. Manual labour for the few hours necessary to all, if all would but lend a hand in production, would prove an infinitely lighter task, and a vastly more stimulating one, than the toil of marketing, the result of artistic effort.

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The Attack on Trade Unionism and the Co-operative Societies.

THE TORIES are working away to undermine the old-fashioned Labour Movement. They do not realise that from its ashes will grow a more virile movement. The first attack was the Bill to make it impossible to raise the political levy for Labour representation, except from those members of the Unions who have signified in writing their willingness to pay the political levy for the current year. This measure has given rise to a degree of consternation in the Unions, which is only accounted for by the fact that the mass of the members are lax in their attendance at Trade Union branches, reluctant to pay Trade Union dues, and wholly apathetic towards the Parliamentary candidatures promoted by the Unions. Had the Unions an active membership keenly in favour of Labour Party policies, the officials would not dread the collection of such a yearly notification.

Mr. Gerald Hurst (C.) has now introduced a Bill to repeal the provision in the Trade Union Act of 1871, which makes it impossible to bring an action in a Court to enforce Trade Union agreements in regard to the payment of benefits to their members.

The object of this clause is to prevent the members of the Unions being punished by refusal to pay benefit because these members have played the part of blacklegs or otherwise defied the Union rules. The Bill is an impertinence coming from a member of the employing classes. If passed—and it probably may be passed—it may have a most harrassing effect on Trade Union finance in these days, when so many Unions are suffering in their funds through the great unemployment. The Labour Party took a division against the bringing in of the Bill, but leave was granted by 209 votes to 68.

Captain Thorpe, another Tory, has introduced a Bill to render illegal the use of Co-operative funds and levies for political purposes. Leave was given to bring in this Bill also by 200 votes to 159.

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Mussolini and the Suffragists.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE Alliance has long been representative of the more backward elements in the feminist movement. When the fight for votes for women was keenest, the Alliance maintained a cautious non-committal attitude and accepted the affiliation only of one society, and that the oldest and least progressive society in each country. The Alliance has now quite slipped into the backwaters. That was inevitable, not so much because the women in America, Britain, Scandinavia, Russia, Germany and Austria have obtained the franchise, but

rather because the efforts of the world's most forward movements now tend to veer away from Parliamentarism altogether and to reach out towards the Soviets, whilst the economic struggle has overshadowed mere franchise reform.

Sunk into insignificance, deserted by its more energetic and progressive elements, the International Women's Suffrage Alliance has now sought for itself a dishonourable notoriety by appointing the dictator, Benito Mussolini, to be president of its annual congress in Rome this year. In addressing the conference, the dictator showed himself, as was but to be expected, opposed to everything for which the pioneers of the women's movement stood. He declared the franchise for both men and women to be a danger, but promised to introduce a gradual and partial suffrage for women, beginning with the municipal vote. There is no doubt that this promise has only been given in the hope that a partial franchise for Italian women may prove an aid to the reaction, and especially to the Roman Catholic Church, which is lending its support to the murderous Fascist dictatorship.

The Worker's Child.

WE AGREE with Mr. De Rome, a delegate to the Head Teachers' Annual Conference, as to the wrong t is that teachers should still find it necessary to protest against school classes of sixty children. We agree with the teachers that such classes are bad for them, worse for the children, and that it is always the worker's child who is made to suffer when the Government decides to economise in the realm of education.

* * *

C.W.S. as Employer.

THE DISPUTE between the Co-operative Wholesale Society and its employees is another reminder that the workers cannot be emancipated within the Capitalist system. The C. W. S. desires to pay only 10 per cent. above Trade Board rates. The Trade Board rates are fixed for what are admittedly sweated trades. The C. W. S. employees are naturally unwilling to remain at that low standard. The C. W. S. retorts that it is dependent on "the woman with the basket" who has to do the best she can for her family on a workman's wage. If the multiple stores will put more into her basket than the Co-operative, she will go to the multiple stores. The community can produce more than its members can consume, but the Capitalist system measures out but a very scanty share of the common product for working-class consumption, and the Co-operative Societies are working under Capitalist conditions. That the Co-operative directors are under the influence of Capitalist ideas is shown by the fact that they pay themselves £14 a week for their services.

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The Boilermakers' Lock-Out.

THE ENGINEERING WORKERS are still suffering from the lack of solidarity amongst the officials of the various engineering Unions. This time it is the Boilermakers' Union that the employers have locked out; whilst the A.E.U and other Unions are still at work. Many members of the Unions which have left the boilermakers to fight alone are thrown out of work by the stoppage of the boilermakers, the National Amalgamated Union of Labour having 6,000 members unemployed through this cause. Nevertheless, no joint action is taken, and the workers in the industry are in a state of confusion. Only the employers maintain a solid and determined front.

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War With Russia?

THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. BALDWIN instead of Lord Curzon as Prime Minister alters the Russian situation not at all. There is no reason to suppose that Lord Curzon and Mr. Baldwin represent different policies on the Russian question.

There is no validity in the pretence of the Labour and Liberal politicians who have affected to believe the Government had undertaken not to break the Trade Agreement with Russia without again submitting the question to Parliament. The Government representatives stated, and reiterated most emphatically, that the Agreement would be terminated if the Government's full demands were not conceded. Messrs. Macdonald, Asquith, and George were left no room for misunderstanding on this point. Mr. Macdonald gave a very considerable measure of assent to the Government policy on propaganda; too large a measure of assent for one who is contemplating a firm opposition to war—if war should come.

We do not anticipate immediate war with Russia, yet we cannot fail to observe that there is an ominous activity towards the borders of Russia on the part of British naval and military forces, and there is a re-birth of vitality amongst Russian counter-revolutionaries.

The "Daily Herald" asserts that British cruisers, mine-sweepers, and destroyers are being sent to the Murman Coast, to Goteborg, at the mouth of the Baltic, where there is to be an assemblage of French and British ships by June 2nd, and to the Black Sea and the Dardanelles. This may only be a demonstration intended to awe the Russians into acceptance of British demands, like the concentrations of British forces around the Dardanelles in the several Anatolian crises which took place some months ago; but such movements are symptomatic of desires and intentions which will be given rein when the situation is judged to be ripe or events precipitate a crisis. The visits to Warsaw of Marshal Foch and Lord Cavan point in the same direction. Another sign is the manifesto of the Monarchist Council in Paris, declaring that the fall of the Soviet Government is imminent and that "there will be set up in the first stage of the counter-revolution a dictatorship under a person of high authority." This person is obviously the Grand Duke Nicholas, in whose favour the notorious General Wrangel has resigned the High Command of the Russian Counter-Revolutionary forces.

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The Amadori Revelations.

THE TELEGRAMS sent by Mr. Amadori, the representative of the Italian Government in Moscow, leave no doubt that the Governments of Britain and Italy are working together for the overthrow of the present Soviet Government. They hope to obtain the co-operation of France, the United States, and Japan; but it is clear that the British are the prime movers and expect the Italians to take an active part with them. The Amadori telegrams make it clear that the intention in the first instance is not to make war, but to cause a financial crisis in Moscow by terminating the Trade Agreement and preventing Russia from getting foreign money. It is hoped that this will cause a sudden dislocation of the Soviet regime, now organised on a Capitalist basis, with a resultant sudden misery amongst the Russian workers. From this crisis it is believed that a new hunger revolution will be made by the masses, led by the Left elements. The present Soviet Government, is estranged from the masses. It is hoped it will turn to attack the revolutionary workers. Then the counter-revolutionaries will rise again. In the confusion of civil war it is hoped that foreign intervention will assist the extreme reaction to victory.

The reactionaries here, of course, count on tranquility and acquiescence on the part of the workers of Britain and Western Europe. The plot which is being developed shows the futility of the policy of peace and trade with Capitalist Governments.

Messrs. Lloyd George and Asquith utter warnings against the plan: they think it too risky; they fear that a new revolution in Russia may prove more successful than the last. They prefer to go on undermining all tendencies towards Socialism in Russia by the diplomatic methods that have, unfortunately, proved all too successful.

The Soviet Government seems to be making every effort to dissuade the British Government from extreme courses. If the concessions are large enough, the Soviet Government may succeed in staving off the conflict for a considerable time. British Imperialism desires, however, to secure material gains from Russia, whether Russia be Czarist or Bolshevist; and when opportunity comes, British Imperialism will take action.

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The Second International.

THE SECOND and Two-and-a-Half Internationals have rejoined each other, and so have done exactly what was expected of them. They have now called themselves by a new name, but they remain, in fact, the old Second International of pre-war days. That International has learnt nothing from the catastrophic events and tragedies which have followed each other so rapidly since pre-war days. It has forgotten all that it ever knew of Socialism.

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Our Gentlemenly Rulers.

THE VINDICTIVE RE-ARREST of Mr. Art O'Brien and other Irish deportees, their cruel treatment in prison, Lord Curzon's reckless statement, one of those of which he would permit no denial, that the skipper and the crew of the "James Johnson" had been imprisoned and made to do forced labour in Russia, the murder of Verowsky after his appeal to the Swiss Government for protection, the further threat to murder Ismet Pasha at Lausanne, and the murder of a Turkish ex-Minister by an Italian soldier in Stamboul, all remind us that Capitalist government does not give that tranquility and ordered security which some people still believe to be a reason for leaving the present system undisturbed. Our gentlemenly rulers are apt to be anything but gentlemen in dealing with their opponents.

The rulers are certainly proving that no one can be trusted to govern others.

Let us hasten to do away with this system of rulership.

HOW LABOUR PARTY LEADERS SEE SOCIALISM.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald was recently the guest of the London Commercial Club at a lunch in the Trocadero Restaurant. His speech to the gathering is reported by the "Drapers' Record" as follows:

"It was necessary for employers and employees to see each other's point of view. Only when the community did justice to Capital and Labour alike had the community the right to impose responsibilities of service upon Capital and Labour alike. The working man, he thought, was largely impersonal in his view, looking upon capital and not upon the capitalist. What was the suggestion for bridging the gulf between Capital and Labour? Capital must take labour into its councils as co-operators. It was only when an employer got the whole of a man's personality working for him—soul and mind, as well as muscle—that he got fine work. When working men began to have their brains trained, the separation between the functions of capital and the functions of labour became not merely an economic difference, but an intellectual and moral difference. The ideas of humanity came in; the worker began to feel that he is a man. He would like to feel that he was a co-operator not simply in the getting of, say, coal, but in the whole marketing of it. That was the moral basis for what was called nationalisation. . . . He regarded Trade Boards as a very good experiment. What they had to do was to modify the Acts by experience, so that they could enthuse their goodness into all the relationships affected by them. If they failed in that, then there was nothing left but revolution. But he, not being a red peril man and having no belief in force, relied on the value of man's intelligence. He thought the Whitley Councils had failed through lack of trust on both sides. . . . He liked neither the lock-out nor the strike. They could not solve things that way. . . ."

This is not Socialism as we see it.

Parliament As We See It.

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT.

1913, four persons costing £1,017 a year.
1922 (first quarter), twenty persons costing £9,318 a year.
1923, eleven persons costing £5,283 a year.

CABINET SECRETARIAT.

1918, 98 persons costing £19,600.
1922, 137 persons costing £36,800.
1923, 38 persons costing £15,750.

REPARATIONS.

Germany's Offer.

To pay by means of international loans twenty milliard gold marks by July 1st, 1927, five milliard gold marks by 1929, and a further five milliard gold marks by 1931. If the loans cannot be raised, Germany offers 1.2 milliard gold marks a year for 36 years. According to Mr. Baldwin, the present value of the German offer is from £800,000,000 to £1,500,000,000.

Britain's Offer.

Present value from £1,775,000,000 to £2,500,000,000.

LABOUR PARTY AMENDMENT TO BUDGET.

The Labour Party amendment to the Finance Bill complained that the provision for reduction of National Debt is inadequate, that relief is not given to the taxpayers who most need it, that the reduction proposed will not stimulate trade and industry.

It is an odd sort of amendment to have been framed by a Labour, not to say a Socialist, Party. Mr. Snowden, who seems to have no doubt as to the permanence of Capitalism, complained that it will take 150 years to pay off the National Debt at the present rate. The National Debt is owing to the wealthy people whom Mr. Snowden complains made themselves £4,000,000,000 richer during the war. Mr. Snowden wants heavier taxes or a capital levy, so that those very rich persons may have the debt repaid to them more speedily. Mr. Snowden quoted the following figures:

The income-tax payers who have incomes of less than £475 a year get, on the average, £3 a year each in tax reduction from the present Budget.

The super-tax payers with incomes over £5,000 a year get, on the average, £300 a year each in reduced taxation from the present Budget.

A single man with an earned income of £250 a year will get relief to the extent of £1 2s. 6d. A single man with an unearned income will get £1 8s. 9d. relief. A single man with £500 a year earned gets £5 1s. 3d. relief. A single man with £500 a year unearned gets £6 6s. 3d. A childless couple with £500 a year earned get £2 16s. 3d. relief. If the £500 a year is unearned they get £4 1s. 3d. relief. Married people with three children and £500 a year earned get £1 13s. 6d. tax reduction. If the income is unearned they get £2 6s. 3d. tax reduction.

The 6d. in the £ income-tax reduction does not operate on the incomes under £7,000. Married people without children and an income of £500 a year only get a reduction of 1½d. in the £. Married people with three children and the same income only get a reduction of ½d. in the £.

The fact is, the ameliorations introduced to palliate the conditions of the income-tax payers are now being withdrawn.

The profits of 406 companies analysed by the "Economist" showed £28,000,000 profit in 1921, and £41,000,000 in 1922. Wages, however, have fallen by £7,000,000,000 in the last three years. The cost of living is still 74 per cent. above pre-war level. The wages of ship-joiners are only 27 per cent. above the pre-war level, shipwrights only 18 per cent. above, riveters 20 per cent. above. The farm labourers with 30/- a week gets 16/- or 17/- at pre-war value, and pays 1/9 a week in taxation on commodities.

COST OF BRITISH ARMY OF OCCUPATION IN GERMANY.

£56,470,000.

HOUSING.

Mr. Buchanan (Lab.) moved the adjournment of the House to call attention to the eviction of 3,000 tenants from their homes in Glasgow during the past year, and the proposed eviction of many more. The Speaker refused to submit the motion, on the ground that the subject was "continuing," and not one which had just arisen.

Mr. Buchanan asked whether the question of people being imprisoned in Russia was more important than "our own folk being flung out of their own homes?"

Mr. Speaker: "I must not be drawn into that controversy."

Mr. Speaker added that the matter might be raised when the House adjourned for the holidays, provided there were no criticism of the action of the Court of Justice.

HAVELOCK WILSON'S UNION.

The form P.C. 5, under which shipowners refuse to employ men who do not belong to Havelock Wilson's Union, and even stop the entrance fee to that Union out of their wages, was raised by Mr. Shinwell (Lab.), of the rival Union. Sir W. Raeburn, the shipowner, defended Wilson's Union, and Viscount Wolmer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, said the Board cannot interfere.

COAL PRICES AND WAGES.

The average value per ton (F.O.B.) of large coal exported from the United Kingdom was 15/9 in 1914, 26/3 in February 1923. The average wage per shift of all classes of workers of all ages in the mines of the United Kingdom in June 1914 was 6/5¾. In June 1923 it is estimated at 9/11.

MR. NEWBOLD'S EXPULSION.

The expulsion of Mr. Walton Newbold (C.P.G.B.) and the disturbance surrounding it was a storm in a teacup such as delights the House of Commons. Mr. Newbold was dissatisfied at not being permitted to speak in the Russian debate, and he addressed the following remark to the Deputy-Chairman:

"On a point of order. Do you allow arguments to be made against me all night, and then never give me any chance to answer, like the bourgeois you are?"

If the official report of the Parliamentary debates is correct, the Deputy-Chairman then replied:

"If the Hon. Member continues to make that sort of remark in this House, I must ask him to leave the House."

Mr. Maxton (Lab.) then asked whether the term bourgeois was an unparliamentary expression.

The Deputy-Chairman replied:

"What I said was that if the Hon. Member did not withdraw the word he had used, he must leave the House."

Mr. Neil Maclean replied, assuming that Mr. Newbold had been ordered to leave the House, and the Deputy-Chairman then seems to have acted up to that assumption. Finally the Sergeant-at-Arms approached Mr. Newbold to order him to leave, and Mr. Newbold cried out:

"I am here in the name of the Communist International."

The mace was then replaced on the table and the Speaker called in, and a vote taken to suspend Mr. Newbold from the sittings of the House.

Mr. Buchanan (Lab.) protested: "I think you are doing a brutal thing."

Mr. Newbold was, of course, thoroughly pleased with this lively turn of events.

THE RUSSIAN DEBATE.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (Lab.) said:

"If Moscow, either by agents or money, is aiding and abetting revolution, disturbance, violence, either in the East, in India, in Afghanistan, or in Persia, **it is wrong, and it is absolutely impossible for us to take no notice if that is what it is doing.**"

If the Moscow Government "sends money into this country for agents for the purpose of interfering in the constitutional operations which are ours, then that is wrong, and **our Government is perfectly entitled to make its protest in the most energetic and effective way.**"

Those are dangerous remarks coming from one who is supposed to oppose war with Russia. Suppose the charges were proved, would Mr. Ramsey Macdonald tolerate a state of war?

As to the territorial waters question, Mr. Macdonald pointed out that the Scotch line and net fishermen also wish to exclude trawlers, whether native or foreign, declaring that trawling upon the spawning-beds destroys the supply of fish.

As to the question of religious persecution, Mr. Macdonald read letters denying its existence, but added that even were there persecution: "Our faith . . . has had its martyrs before to-day . . . and we need not bother so much about it. . . ."

He declared it to be "a perfectly intolerable thing" that no one should be allowed to teach religion in the Russian schools.

It is interesting to observe that Mr. Macdonald follows the Capitalist view of what is important. Persecute our faith and our prophets if you will, he says, but you shall not undermine our power or our profits.

THE GOVERNMENT REPLY.

Mr. Ronald McNeill replied that "the very idea of suggesting war between two great countries over matters of this sort was too horrible to contemplate. He added that the Government desires, not the denunciation of the Trade Agreement, but its observation. The cessation of propaganda by Moscow was, he said, an essential part of the Agreement.

Mr. McNeill added that it was the Labour Party which had pressed the Government to make representations to Russia on the trial of the Archbishop. Mr. McNeill quoted an article by Mr. J. R. Clynes (Lab.) in the "Financial Times," describing the execution of the Archbishop as murder. He also quoted an article by Mr. Snowden (Lab.), declaring that "the Soviet Government tries in every possible way to annoy and thwart Great Britain."

Mr. McNeill then explained the intentions of the Government, as follows:

Lord Curzon would see Mr. Krassin to go through the claims of the British Government with him, the British Government would consent to withhold action until Mr. Krassin should have had time to receive further instructions from Moscow, but the Government would not be satisfied "with anything less" than compliance with its demands, which were arrived at by a full Cabinet presided over by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Lloyd George expressed his "satisfaction" at the reply. He added: "Eventually the Bolshevist will evolve and develop into the Russian Imperialist again." He asked the Government "not to add to the troubles of the world, not to quarrel with the moderate men now in power, as that would give the advantage to the real revolutionaries in Russia.

Mr. Asquith associated himself with everything Mr. Lloyd George had said.

Mr. Ponsonby (Lab.) also expressed satisfaction that the Trade Agreement would not be broken, although no such pledge had been given by the Government.

LANSBURY AND RELIGION.

Mr. George Lansbury (Lab.) observed that not only in Russia, but also in France, America, and Australia, religious instruction is not given in the schools. "I do not agree with that," he said, "because I want to see religious education established."

Mr. Lansbury was an agnostic at one time. Does it not seem fair to him that the children should be left free from the clutches of professional religionists until they are of an age to judge the evidence for themselves? Might not religious instruction at least be left for the parents to arrange independently, instead of being crammed into the children en masse?

Sir P. Lloyd Greame, the President of the Board of Trade, wound up the debate for the Government, and stressed the point that the Government would insist upon its full demands as a condition of continuing the Trade Agreement. He emphasised particularly the cessation of propaganda.

The Labour Party had previously announced that it would not press its motion to a vote. Even the reiteration of the Government's answer did not move the Labour Party from its complacent attitude.

THE SEQUEL.

On the motion to adjourn the House on May 17th, Sir Edward Grigg (Nat. Lib.) again raised the question of the ultimatum to Russia, and a reply was also urged by Captain Wedgwood Benn. Mr. McNeill then reiterated what he had said on the previous Tuesday. He refused to give an undertaking **that the Trade Agreement would not be** terminated during the recess, and declared that the policy of the Government in this respect had been submitted to the House on the previous Tuesday, when the Labour Party had refrained from taking a division. The Government was not under any obligation to submit the matter to the House, but as the Prime Minister had given a pledge to do so it had done so. The House had been plainly told that if the Soviet Government failed to comply with the British Government's full terms the Government's representative would be withdrawn from Moscow.

Mr. Macdonald (Lab.), who is usually found wanting when a decision has to be made, protested that he had not understood the position in this light. He protested that the House had been misled.

Mr. McNeill advised the Labour leader to look at the official report of the debate.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

1921 showed 15 per cent. of unemployment amongst the members of the Trade Unions which furnish such returns to the Government. This is the highest percentage recorded. 11.4 per cent. in 1899, and 10.2 in 1886 come next. The records since 1865 show that but for the war period the tendency was for periods of greater unemployment to recur at shorter intervals and to last longer.

MR. SYDNEY WEBB ON WOMEN'S WORK.

Mr. Sydney Webb (Lab.) made some curious remarks on women's employment. He began with the fact that there are 4,000,000 women wage-earners to 12,000,000 men wage-earners, 200,000 women workers are unemployed. The majority of the unemployed women, he said, are industrial workers, 65,000 are textile operatives, 25,000 dressmakers and millners.

Nevertheless, he made some strange concessions to the bourgeois outcry for domestic servants, and the consequent refusal to pay unemployment benefit to women. He expressly stated that he did not object to the compulsory undertaking forced upon women who enter the "home craft" centres that they will become domestic servants. He said: "I admit it would be impossible to extend unemployment insurance to the domestic servant." Why not, we should like to know, if unemployment insurance is good for others, why should the domestic servant be denied it?

Mr. Webb raised a cheap laugh in the House by recounting a story that a woman in search of a servant had accused the superintendent of the Employment Exchange of making her quest more difficult by paying the dole. The superintendent had referred her to the line of women waiting for the dole outside. The woman inspected them, and replied that she would not have any one of them in her house at any price.

Mr. Webb says that was "a practical judgment as to the past experience and training of those women."

As a matter of fact, it was a testimony to the effect of poverty upon them.

JUVENILE TRAINING CENTRES.

Mr. Foot (L.) protested against the proposed closing down of training centres for unemployed boys and girls. The Government would give no undertaking.

PRISON FOR REFUSING BLACKLEG RATES.

Mr. Lansbury raised the case of an unemployed man in Lewisham who was ordered by the Lewisham Guardians to work for the Lewisham Borough Council for £2 6s. a week of 47 hours (less than the Trade Union rates), instead of receiving outdoor relief. The man refused. The Poor-Law relief was not stopped, but the man was sent to prison for 21 days on a charge of neglecting his wife and children. Other Guardians are taking a similar course.

THE SAAR VALLEY.

Peaceful picketing is prohibited in the Saar by the Governing Commission appointed by the League of Nations.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN ROUMANIA?

Field-Marshal the Earl of Ypres, and some officers from the Staff College have been visiting Roumania. The Under-Secretary for War protested it was only a little private trip "of an instructional nature."

REVOLUTION EXPECTED IN ROUMANIA.

The explanation of the visit is perhaps to be found in the probability of revolution in Roumania referred to by Mr. N. Buxton (Lab.), who explained that in the provinces which used to belong to Austria-Hungary all religious orders except the State Church of Roumania are suppressed. Elections have been held under martial law. When Hamlet was acted, the Censor forbade the words "To be or not to be," on the ground that they were an incitement to revolution.

MR. BEN SPOOR GROWS IMPERIALIST.

Mr. Ben Spoor (I.L.P. Pacifist) said:

"You have British interests to be protected. . . . As a country, we cannot have this unrest in India, in Egypt, and in practically every one of the Crown Colonies. Unquestionably the Empire is weakened. I believe that the Under-Secretary is as desirous as we are of securing peace in Egypt."

UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES.

Fifty-three members of the I.W.W. in California are serving sentences from two to twenty-eight years for criminal syndicalism.

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Sixty others are now on trial or awaiting trial on the same charge.

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Others are being arrested daily for selling I.W.W. papers in the street.

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Sixteen I.W.W.s are on bail in Los Angeles; their bail amounts to 81,000 dollars.

A WIDOW'S PENSION.

An old Dolgelly widow who was chosen to unveil the local war memorial has just had her pension reduced to 8/5 per week. She is suffering from cancer, and unable to do anything for herself.

LANDLORDISM.

Land in Cockspur Street, London, was recently sold at £4,000,000 per acre. The site of the Tivoli, in the Strand, realised £608,000.

A piece of land in Derby, rated at £100, was sold for £9,000.

ESPERANTO.

Lesson 19.

Si.

Mi lavas min, I wash myself.
Vi lavas vin, you wash yourself.
Li lavas **sin,** he washes himself.

Note that in the third person (he, she, it, they) we use **si.** Another way of expressing the idea in the last sentence would be to say, Li lavas **al si la manojn** (aŭ la vizaĝon), he washes ("to himself") the hands (or the face).

Ni lavas nin, we wash ourselves.
Ili lavas **sin,** they wash themselves (or ili lavas **al si** la manojn aŭ la vizaĝon).

The first thing to note about **si** is that it is always used in the **third person only** (i.e., with **li,** he (a man), **ŝi,** she (a woman), or **ĝi,** it (an animal, thing or child); it is **not** used with the first and second persons (i.e., mi, I; ni, we; and vi, you).

The second and essential thing to notice is that **si** always relates to the **subject** of the sentence. (In the above examples, **sin** relates to **li** and **ili** respectively.

Now note the difference between Ili lavas **sin,** they wash themselves, and Ili lavas **ilin,** they wash **them** (the babies, for instance!). In the latter case, the word **ilin** does not stand for the same persons as **ili.**

Si, which is called a **Reflexive** pronoun, may be made into a **Possessive** adjective by adding **-a**; thus, Si lavas **sian** infanon, she washes her (own) child; ili lavas **siajn** infanojn, they wash their (own) children. Si lavas **sian** infanon, means, She washes her (another woman's) child.

Finally, note that **si** or **sia** cannot form part of the subject of the sentence; thus, in a sentence like **Lia** vizaĝo radiis pro plezuro, his face radiated with pleasure, where the word **lia vizaĝo** forms the subject, we could never have "**sia** vizaĝo," for the reason that **sia** is essential **reflexive**—i.e., it "bends back" or relates to the subject.

Mem, self, is a word expressing emphasis; thus, Mi mem, I myself; li mem, he himself; la tago mem, the day itself, the **very** day. Mem-stara, "self-standing," means independent (one may also say **sendependa**).

Suffixes -ig- and -iĝ-.

-ig- (pronounce as "eegg") means **to make, to cause** (to be); thus, pura, clean; **purigi,** to make or cause to be clean, to purify, to cleanse; sana, healthy; **sanigi,** to render healthy, to cause to be well.

-iĝ- (pronounce as "eej") means **to become,** to get (in a certain state); thus, pura, clean; **puriĝi,** to become clean; sana, healthy; **saniĝi,** to become or get healthy; ruĝa, red; **ruĝiĝi,** to become or turn red, to blush.

If you make certain of the meaning of **-ig-** (to cause, make), you cannot possibly confuse it with **-iĝ-** (to become).

Vocabulary.

amas	love(s)
ĉiuj	all
devus	should, ought
ankaŭ	also
najbaro	neighbour
almenaŭ	at least
respekti	to respect
tranĉis	cut
filino	daughter
lekis	licked
pala	pale
timo	fear
kuracisto	doctor
haro	a (single) hair

Translate.

Mi amas min mem, vi amas vin mem, li amas sin mem; ni ĉiuj amas nin mem. Oni (one, "people") diras, ke oni devus ankaŭ ami sian najbaron. Almenaŭ oni devus respekti ilian (their) individuecon. Li tranĉis al si la fingron. La patrino venis kun sia filino al nia domo. La kato lekis sian vizaĝon. Li farigis (became, lit. "became made") pala (aŭ li paliĝis). Li mortis de timo. La timo mortigis lin. Venigu (cause to come) la kuraciston. Liaj haroj blankiĝis (became white). Si ruĝiĝis (blushed) pro plezuro.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor.

I have been charged under section of the Lord's Observance Act, 1838, that I did wrongfully and unlawfully sell copies of a certain newspaper, called the " Workers' Dreadnought," for the sum of one penny sterling.

The Court literally teemed with police and detectives. As far as the public is concerned, it was crowded to suffocation; doorways and windows were all crowded.

Prior to the hearing of evidence, I stated I wished to take exception to the summons on the ground that the Act of 1838 did not apply to newspapers, because at that time newspapers were not offered for sale in the streets of Cape Town. I also put in a plea that the newspapers were sold from the railway bookstalls. The objection was overruled. The prosecutor laid the "Workers' Dreadnought," pinned to various legal documents, on the table of the Court

Detectives gave evidence that the " Workers' Dreadnought " aims at destroying the Parliament system of government by revolution and force, and is circulated among both Europeans and non-Europeans throughout the Union.

In my defence I said: " The prosecution is a class prosecution, and aims at striking a blow through me at the Communist Party to stop the circulation of the paper amongst the workers. It is not a matter of profit as far as selling is concerned. If a purchaser of the paper did not wish to retain it after reading it, we were prepared to refund the money. If a worker has no money to buy the paper, he gets a copy gratis. . . . The paper teaches pure Communism."

The Magistrate held that I had contravened the law, and fined me 10/-. A collection took place in the Court, and the fine was paid.

The Empire is saved for Bolshevism.

ISAAC VERMONT.

ANTI-FASCIST ORGANISATION.

An Anti-Fascist Organisation, specially appealing to young people between 15 and 30, has been formed. It proposes to attend Red demonstrations, carry banners, collect, sell literature, and so on. It will organise classes and meetings for the young. A Red Shirt uniform is being discussed. Secretary, Mr. H. T. Noble, 157 Church Street, Stoke Newington.

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Central London Group meets Thursdays, 152 Fleet Street. 8 p.m. For Group business, 9 to 10 p.m.

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YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

A blue mark in this space indicates that your subscription is now due.

The high cost of production of the paper necessitates prompt payment.

You and the Prime Minister.

The King has called another Prime Minister, fellow-worker; but you are decidedly out of it. This country is supposed to be democratically governed; but what say have you had in making Mr. Baldwin Prime Minister?

What will the pale Mr. Baldwin do for you, fellow-worker, now he is Prime Minister?

The editor of the " Daily Herald " says Mr. Baldwin has gained a reputation for " soundness of judgment," " kindliness," 'honesty," " a real desire to secure both better conditions at home and peaceful, friendly relations abroad."

Wait a bit, fellow-worker, amongst whom has the pale Mr. Baldwin acquired that reputation? Why, amongst the Tory Capitalists, of course, and in the "best club in London, the House of Commons.

You do not belong to that Club, fellow-worker, and you are not a Tory Capitalist. What does Mr. Baldwin look like to you?

The " Daily Herald " has published an article on the new Prime Minister "by one who knows him." That is an interesting article, fellow-worker. You must disregard the headlines: " A Strong Force in House of Commons," " His Pipe and Pigs," " Ambition Fulfilled," and all that sort of thing; read further, and observe:

" He succeeded to the family interest of Baldwins, Ltd., the great steel firm with works in Wales."

Like Mr. Bonar Law, the new Premier is a representative of Big Business and an ironmaster; we are still in the clutches of the iron and steel kings.

" A real desire for friendly relations abroad," says the " Daily Herald." Let the " Herald " tell that to the Marines! Which is the branch of Big Business that benefits most by war? Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, late of the " Daily Mail," has learnt very thoroughly the art of writing with his tongue in his cheek.

Mr. Baldwin, your new Prime Minister, is a nominee of the Tory Die-Hards, and his interests are those of the Die-Hard clique.

The Government is the Executive Committee of the big Capitalist interests, and they have picked out Mr. Baldwin as a man whose business instincts are of a quality well fitted to serve them.

Consequently, fellow-worker, you must look out for further reductions in wages relative to the cost of living, more coercive treatment of the unemployed, and shorter rations for them, and a more aggressive imperialism, with preparations for another Capitalist war. The French are having a great adventure in the Ruhr. The British Imperialists will not allow themselves to be outdone by the French; they are preparing a big move further east. Big Business intends to be bigger, and with Mr. Baldwin acting as its executive servant, Big Business intends that you shall be the tool.

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COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT.

OUTDOOR MEETINGS.

Thursday, May 24th.—8 p.m., Garnault Place, Rosebery Avenue, E.C. J. Welsh and others.

Friday, May 25th.—8 p.m., Berwick Street and Broad Street, W. W. Hall, F. Humphrey, N. Smyth.

Sunday, May 27th.—6 p.m., Finsbury Park. W. Hall, J. Welsh.

Monday, May 28th.—8 p.m., Garnault Place, Rosebery Avenue, E.C. W. Hall, J. Welsh.

Thursday, May 31st.—8 p.m., Garnault Place, E.C., J. Welsh and others.

Friday, June 1st.—8 p.m., Berwick Street and Broad Street, W. Hall, J. Quinton.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNIST WORKERS' GROUP.

This group meets Tuesday evenings at Comrade Wilson's, 2 Frankfort Lane, Plymouth.

" The Workers' Opposition," by Alexandra Kollontay, published by the " Dreadnought," price 6d., may also be obtained in German and Russian, price 1/-, with a critical preface by P. Korpelauski, of the Russian Section, Fourth International.

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